

SCHOOL RENOVATION, IDEA, AND TECHNOLOGY GRANTS

Authorized under P.L. 106-554

Grant Process Description

Overview

The Tennessee State Department of Education (TDE) has received a federal grant award for School Renovation, IDEA, and Technology Grants authorized in the fiscal year 2001 Appropriations Act. in the amount of \$17,371,541.

Seventy-five percent (75%) of the available funds under this grant program will be awarded to Tennessee local educational agencies (LEAs) for school repair and renovation. Of the available funding for repair and renovation, high poverty LEAs will be awarded a percentage of the funding equal to the percentage of all FY 2000 Part A, Title I funds received by high poverty LEAs in relation to the amount of such funds received by all LEAs in Tennessee. Of the available funding for repair and renovation, rural LEAs will be awarded a percentage of the funding equal to the percentage of all FY 2000 Part A, Title I funds received by rural LEAs in relation to the amount of such funds received by all LEAs in Tennessee. The remaining funds for repair and renovation will be awarded to LEAs not receiving an award under the high poverty or rural criteria. The range of awards for Tennessee LEAs for school repair and renovation is \$50,000 - \$500,000.

A high poverty LEA is defined as one that has 30 percent or more of poor children 5 to 17 years of age or the number of poor children is at least 10,000. The percentage of poor children will be determined using census poverty data provided by the United States Department of Education. A rural LEA is defined as one located in a non-metropolitan area as designated by Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) calculations.

Twenty-five percent (25%) of the available funds under this grant program will be distributed to LEAs within Tennessee for technology activities that are carried out in connection with school repair and renovation and/or to carry out activities under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Technology funding will be used to supplement assistance received from the E-rate program as well as other federal technology-related programs such as the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grant. The range of awards for Tennessee LEAs for IDEA and/or technology funding is \$10,000 - \$200,000.

Process/Competitive Grants

Tennessee LEAs will compete for School Renovation, IDEA, and Technology Grants through a Request for Proposals process that will be distributed to LEA superintendents. Statewide technical assistance and regional training sessions will be conducted including detailed training on the proposal and assistance in grant writing. Tennessee will award competitive grants to LEAs utilizing a rating scale of 100 points for each of the areas outlined in the grant award processes below.

The tentative competitive process time frame is:

December 15, 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposals due• Proposals reviewed and scored• Award negotiations
January 30, 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Award notifications
January, 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funds available to LEAs
June, 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LEA program performance reports due to TDE
December, 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TDE program performance reports due to USDE
2001 - 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing technical assistance
2002 - 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On-site inspection of projects

School Repair and Renovation Grants

Selection Criteria

- *The percentage of poor children 5 to 17 years of age, inclusive, in an LEA.* The LEA will provide appropriate documentation concerning its disadvantaged status. (A maximum of 30 points will be awarded in this section based on percentages of LEA poverty).
- *The need of an LEA for school repair and renovation as demonstrated by the condition of its public school facilities.* The LEA must submit appropriate documentation demonstrating the need for repair and renovation. This documentation shall include an application with preliminary drawings of the proposed repair or renovation project(s) and description and cost of the project(s). The documentation may also include inspection reports from insurance, health and safety-related agencies; photographs; and any other information considered appropriate by the LEA such as age of the building to be repaired or renovated. (A maximum of 30 points will be awarded in this section based on demonstration of need).
- *The fiscal capacity of an LEA to meet its needs for repair and renovation of public school facilities without assistance under this section, including its ability to raise funds through the use of local bonding capacity and otherwise.* The LEA will provide documentation demonstrating financial need including, but not limited to, the LEA's debt limitation, current percentage of debt, and bonding authority. (A maximum of 20 points will be awarded in this section based on demonstration of need).

- *The likelihood that the LEA will maintain, in good condition, any facility whose repair or renovation is assisted under this section.* The LEA must demonstrate its commitment to maintenance of facilities including, but not limited to, evidence of past and ongoing training/staff development of maintenance personnel, detailed plan of maintenance for facilities, and budget for such training and maintenance. (A maximum of 20 points will be awarded in this section based on demonstration of maintenance).

IDEA Grants

Selection Criteria

- *The need of an LEA for additional funds for a student whose individually allocable cost for expenses related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) substantially exceeds Tennessee's average per-pupil expenditure.* The LEA must demonstrate the need for IDEA-related funding by submitting an estimate of funds necessary to provide the student(s) a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in accordance with the student's(s') individualized education program (IEP). (A maximum of 25 points will be awarded in this section based on demonstration of need).
- *The need of an LEA for additional funds for special education and related services under Part B of IDEA.* The LEA must demonstrate the need for IDEA-related funding by submitting an estimate of funds necessary to provide special education and related services to a student(s) that cannot be provided using the district's existing Part B funds without impacting the LEA's ability to provide adequate services for other eligible students under Part B of IDEA. (A maximum of 25 points will be awarded in this section based on demonstration of need).
- *The need of an LEA for additional funds for assistive technology devices or assistive technology services as defined in section 602 or under Part of IDEA.* The LEA must demonstrate the need for IDEA-related funding by submitting an estimate of funds necessary to provide an assistive technology device(s) or assistive technology service(s) to a student(s) that cannot be provided using the district's existing Part B funds or without impacting the LEA's ability to provide adequate services for other eligible students under Part B of IDEA. (A maximum of 25 points will be awarded in this section based on demonstration of need).
- *The need of an LEA for additional funds for activities under Part B of IDEA in order for children with disabilities to make progress toward meeting the performance goals and indicators established by Tennessee under section 612(a)(16) of the Act.* The LEA must demonstrate the need for IDEA-related funding by submitting an estimate of funds necessary for activities, which would enable children with disabilities to make progress toward meeting performance goals and indicators, that cannot be provided using the district's existing Part B funds or without impacting the LEA's ability to provide adequate services for other eligible students under Part B of IDEA. (A maximum of 25 points will be awarded in this section based on demonstration of need).

Technology Grants

Selection Criteria

- *Demonstration of technology activities carried out in connection with school repair and renovation.* The LEA must submit documentation of a school repair or renovation project in progress or recently completed. (A maximum of 20 points will be awarded in this section based on demonstration of school repair and renovation).
- *The need of an LEA for additional funds for technology activities including wiring, acquisition of hardware, software, connectivity and transmission equipment.* Demonstration of need may include, but not be limited to, percentage of classrooms not wired for Internet access; LEAs or schools with no local area network (LAN) or wide area network (WAN) or networks that do not meet IEEE standards; LEAs with electrical capacity not meeting IEEE standards. (A maximum of 40 points will be awarded in this section based on demonstration of need).
- *An application for E-rate funding and an approved local technology plan on file with the Tennessee State Department of Education.* TDE will verify that districts have an approved technology plan on file and that an E-rate application has been filed. (A maximum of 20 points will be awarded in this section based on verification of plan and application file status).
- *A description of the types of technologies to be acquired and the costs of the technologies.* The LEA must provide documentation that all technologies to be acquired meet Tennessee minimum technical specifications. LEAs will also be required to submit LAN/WAN schematics for the district as well as for each school targeted in the proposal. Documentation may also include professional development activities for the district/school technology coordinator related to the installation, maintenance and upgrade of the network. (A maximum of 20 points will be awarded in this section based on description and costs of types of technologies).

Expert Review

An expert review panel will be utilized to score all proposals. The review panel will be comprised of individuals with educational expertise and leadership, knowledge of school building structure and design, educational technology expertise, and special education expertise. The review panel will receive thorough training on the School Renovation, IDEA, and Technology Grants Program, Tennessee's proposal, and the criteria for rating proposals. All necessary information will be shared with the reviewers prior to the review.

Guarantee of Supplementation of Funds

The Tennessee State Department of Education will ensure that the LEA shall use federal funds only to supplement the amount of funds that would, in the absence of such federal funds, be made available from non-federal sources for school repair and renovation. As part of the proposal, the LEA shall submit a Statement of Assurance that these federal funds will be used only to supplement the amount of funds that would, in the absence of such federal funds, be made available from non-federal sources for school repair and renovation. A final, on-site inspection by TDE representatives may be conducted to ensure that the supplementation guarantee has been met.

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Attention:
School Renovation, IDEA and Technology Grants